

Amendments to the Specification:

After the title, please insert the following paragraph:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of International Application No. PCT/EP02/08391, filed July 27, 2002, which claims priority to German Application No. DE 101 38 753, filed August 7, 2001, all of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

After the claims, please insert the following:

Abstract

The present invention relates compositions and methods involving hybrid α -amylases derived from the α -amylases of the bacteria species *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* and *Bacillus licheniformis*. In one embodiment, the hybrid α -amylases are used in detergents and cleaning agents.